



Recruiter

The Magazine of the Air Force Recruiting Professional

The Road Ahead

**AFRS reaches
midpoint of
goal year**

**RECRUITING GOAL
NEXT EXIT
6 MONTHS**

March
2004



March 2004 Vol. 50 No. 3

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The editorial content is edited, prepared, and provided by the public affairs office of Air Force Recruiting Service, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas. All photos are Air Force photos unless otherwise indicated.

Articles and photos submitted for publication in the *Recruiter* must be received by the editor no later than the first day of the month preceding publication.

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cover photo



With six months left in the recruiting year, Air Force Recruiting Service plans for the road ahead to goal. (Photo illustration by Tech. Sgt. John Asselin)

January Top EA Recruiters

TSgt John McGahan	345	500%	MSgt Anthony Scalf	369	400%
MSgt Donald Strickland	347	450%	TSgt Kevin McC Carson	349	400%
TSgt Robert Nixon	342	450%	TSgt Cory Hulse	367	350%
SSgt Brandon Pasley	344	400%	MSgt Timothy Hanko	368	350%
SSgt Clinton O'leary	362	400%	TSgt DeAnna Manske	361	300%

January Top Flight Chiefs

MSgt Mike Garten	342D	222%	TSgt Mark Spivak	314E	190%
MSgt David Bullard	313B	210%	TSgt Donald Orr	313F	189%
MSgt David Kramer	339G	200%	MSgt Darryl Swartzlander	330C	189%
TSgt Chris Ury	345G	192%	MSgt Paul Gallagher	311A	186%
MSgt Charles Marshall	332F	191%			

Operation Code Blue -- Final

TSgt Scott Powers	333	140 pts	SSgt Fred Randall	313	80 pts
SSgt Joey Debonis	347	135 pts	TSgt Laura Stickle	369	75 pts
TSgt Jack Cauldwell	349	135 pts	MSgt Mark Bradford	338	75 pts
MSgt Wilbert Nelson	345	120 pts	SSgt Gavino Duron	342	75 pts
SSgt Mario Rodriguez	362	110 pts	TSgt Mark Graves	344	75 pts
TSgt Clarence Hogan	369	100 pts	TSgt Derek Fromenthal	336	66.6 pts
TSgt Robert Moore	336	90 pts	SSgt David Cuddeford	343	66.6 pts
MSgt Jeanmark Couture	341	80 pts	TSgt Ace Apodaca	367	66.6 pts
SSgt Jess Fisher	337	80 pts	TSgt Larry Moore	332	66.6 pts

Recruiter Spotlight

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Daniel Elkins

Staff Sgt. Preston Combellick

Job title: Enlisted accessions recruiter, 330th Recruiting Squadron

Office location: South Bend, Ind.

Hometown: Kansas City, Mo.

Time in Air Force: 14 years

Time in AFRS: One year

Hobbies: Collecting comics, reading and golf

What inspires you to do what you do? My wife and son

What is the best advice you have ever received? Work smarter, not harder

What are your career goals? Make chief and finish college

What hints can you give others about recruiting? Be excited to talk about the Air Force. If you're excited, the applicant also will be excited.

Personal motto: If at first you don't succeed, try, try again



Halfway home AFRS on track during first six months of year

By Brig. Gen. Dutch Remkes
Air Force Recruiting Service
commander

Thank you all for the warm welcome I've received here at Air Force Recruiting Service over the past month and a half. The recruiting world is still new to me, but every day I'm learning more about this business from the best recruiting team in the world.

I've had a chance to meet a few of you out in the field and I look forward to meeting many more of you during the course of my travels. I've seen firsthand how challenging the job is and I'm very impressed by the caliber of people we have in AFRS.

Although I've just entered the picture, all of you have been working extremely hard the last six months toward this year's goal. From what I've seen, you're doing an outstanding job and I'm confident we'll have another stellar recruiting year.

The contents of this issue of *Recruiter* gives you some insight to where we are at the "halfway" mark and a look at the road ahead to making goal.

The two emphasis areas we need to keep focused on are critical officer accessions and



Photo by Tech. Sgt. John Asselin

Mitch Weatherly, chief of the trainer development flight, 982nd Maintenance Squadron, Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, shows Brig. Gen. Dutch Remkes, Air Force Recruiting Service commander, a display item from a new recruiting jet engine trailer. When completed near the end of May, the trailer will house a cutaway jet engine and be used by AFRS at special events.

Hispanic recruiting.

We're doing well in critical OA, but still need more health professionals and engineers. It's a tough market out there, but I know with continued determination we'll make significant progress in this area.

Hispanic recruiting is showing signs of success. We've set ourselves a target of 11.3 percent and it's looking positive at this

point. Keep up the great work and we'll be on target by the end of the year.

Remember, success doesn't happen overnight but with the right tools and the right attitude, you're bound to reach it.

Again, thank you for the great reception and I look forward to working with you through the rest of this year and into the next.

View from the Top

Safety focus must remain constant

By Gen. Don Cook
Air Education and Training
Command commander

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AETCNS) — Accidental deaths and severe injuries are plaguing our Air Force. Sadly, Air Education and Training Command has not escaped this alarming trend.

The first weekend in April alone we lost three Airmen in tragic accidents. Two instructor pilots perished in the crash of a T-6A trainer at Savannah-Hilton Head International Airport in Georgia, and a young Airman lost his life in yet another fatal motorcycle accident near Keesler Air Force Base in Mississippi.

Compounding this situation is the sharp rise in other accidents resulting in serious and near fatal injuries.

The frequency at which Airmen in our command are killed and injured in private motor vehicle accidents, especially motorcycle accidents, is appallingly high. Within the first months of this year we are well on our way to overtaking the precedent-setting number of fatal and serious injury-producing motorcycle accidents we had last year.

This heartrending loss of life and severe injury is simply intolerable.

One motorcycle accident death is one too many! There is no middle ground or room for



compromise.

Safety considerations are critical in all you do at work, at home and during your leisure activities. But despite all our sustained best efforts to communicate this imperative; despite our robust mandatory safety training programs; despite people seemingly on board with the safety mindset, deaths and injuries continue to haunt us with increasing regularity.

Immediate action by every AETC team member to halt this unacceptable trend is the only solution. To get our focus squarely on safety as our No. 1 priority, I directed commanders throughout AETC to hold a safety “down day.” I wanted everyone in our command to get a collective shake of the shoulders and look in the eye from their commanders to ensure they received — again —

a loud and clear message about the paramount importance of safety.

We’ve iterated our message consistently and frequently — safety and our reliance on operational risk management are absolutely crucial in all we do. Our message has not changed, and we will not stop delivering it at every opportunity possible. But it is up to each of you to respond to this call to preventative action.

Today, right now each of you must center your focus on safety — not tomorrow, not next week and not when the “101 Critical Days of Summer” begin in May. Now is the time to take the brave, but necessary action to alter behavior that puts you, your family and your colleagues at risk. Recklessness, inattention and disregard for fundamentally safe behavior must be eliminated.



Rounding second,

Heading Home

Recruiting service six months from end-of-year goal

By Tech. Sgt. Daniel Elkins
Air Force Recruiting Service

With the first half of fiscal 2004 now in the books, officials at Air Force Recruiting Service are lauding the recruiting efforts in finding qualified men and women to fill the ranks. “Enlisted accessions recruiting is doing very well so far this year,” said Lt. Col. Dan Woolever, AFRS deputy chief of operations. “In fact, we are already releasing fiscal 2005 jobs this month.”

GOAL SCOREBOARD

Goal percentages are based on FY04 production as of March 31.

Health professions percentages are based on Air Force requirements.



Graphic by Tech. Sgt. John Aisselin
Source: Air Force Recruiting Service operations

Successful EA recruiting is the result of a strong recruitment campaign that capped a prosperous 2003, when recruiters were able to build a 43-percent bank of enlistment contracts heading into fiscal 2004, according to Senior Master Sgt. Sheila Kiernan, chief of enlisted programs for AFRS.

Colonel Woolever believes enlistment bonuses continue to assist in the harder-to-access Air Force specialties, adding better accession bonuses may also prove to be the shot in the arm needed for attracting qualified health professionals.

“Our officer accessions recruiters have had a very strong year finding Officer Training School candidates, with most of the remaining board selections accessing in fiscal 2005,” said Colonel Woolever. “However, we continue to be challenged in the ‘big three’ – physicians, dentists and nurses. We need better tools for our recruiters, and we’re investigating the need for more officer accessions recruiters.”

Chief Master Sgt. Sal Lagudi oversees the officer accessions program for Air Force recruiting. He said that in addition to competing with the lure of weighty compensation packages many civilian health care facilities offer to attract health professionals, the obstacle stems from limited resources being out-paced by need.

The chief said that while recruiters have been highly effective in finding OTS candidates in the technical, rated and non-technical fields, one of the short-term measures being taken to meet the challenge of recruiting health professionals calls for retooling.

“Because we’ve had such great success in the OTS arena, squadrons have begun moving some

recruiters who were working OTS programs to HP programs so we can concentrate our efforts on physicians, dentists and nurses,” Chief Lagudi said.

The chief added that although it takes time to retrain these recruiters, he anticipates an increase in officer accessions production soon. Perhaps benefiting those recruiters is that of the 20 officer accessions selection boards remaining, four are for dentists, five are for physicians and six for nurses.

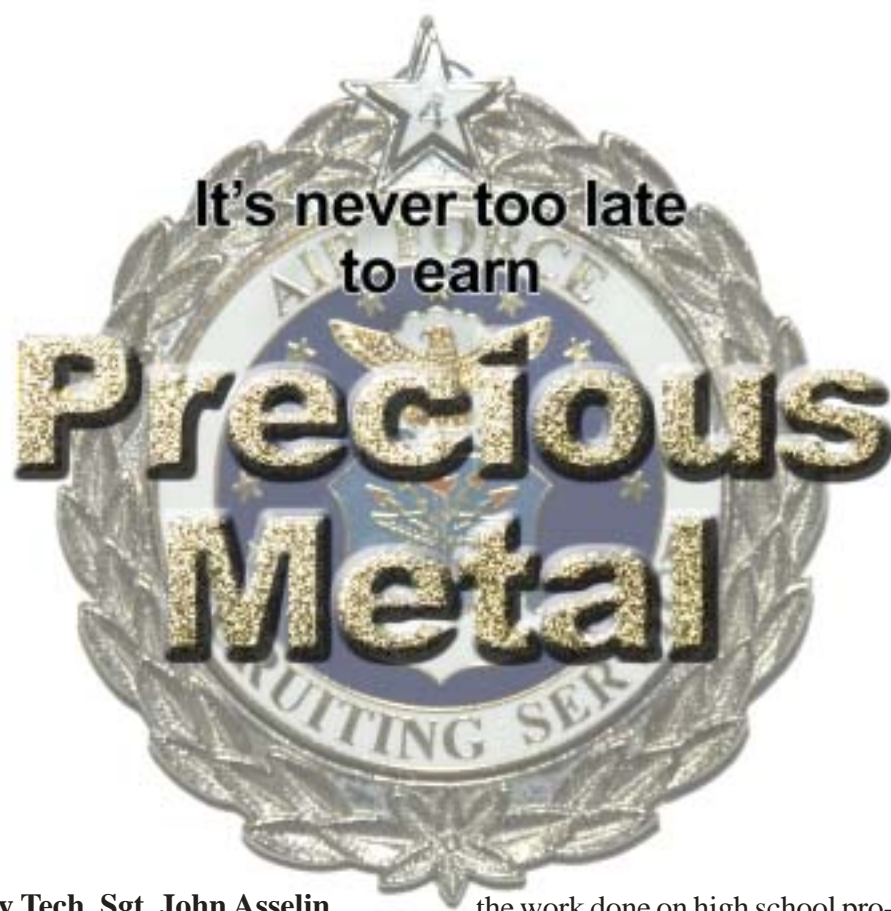
The chief said AFRS is on track to make goal in the biomedical and medical science corps programs.

According to Colonel Woolever, it’s possible the overwhelming success enjoyed by enlisted accessions recruiters may create a bit of a challenge — the Air Force will be limited to nearly no over-accession.

Sergeant Kiernan explained that AFRS purposely started the year off with a 43-percent bank. “This allowed us to make sure the jobs were not depleted and ensure applicants would not stay in the Delayed Entry Program longer than necessary. Fortunately, we are still overproducing and doing better shipping DEPPers than last year.”

In fact, she said the glide slope for enlisted recruiting is where it needs to be with 99 percent of jobs booked despite being in the middle of FMAM — the period of February through May when enlisted accessions recruiters typically face the greatest challenge.

However, the chief of enlisted accessions recruiting points out that although the command has had great success so far this year, the focus by recruiters going into the second half of the fiscal year needs to remain “on selling jobs in the mechanical, electronic and general areas.”



By Tech. Sgt. John Asselin
Air Force Recruiting Service

Air Force Recruiting Service is halfway to the end of the goal year, and some may think it's too late to work on a silver or gold badge.

Not true, according to Senior Master Sgt. Jeff Lesko, AFRS command standardization and training branch chief.

"With six months left, it's a perfect time for an individual to assess where they're at midterm, see which programs worked for them and which haven't been as successful," he said. "They should look at what tools they are utilizing and where they can improve. It's time to do a self-assessment plan for the rest of the months of the recruiting year."

It's also a good time to look at the differences in market shift, Sergeant Lesko said.

"The first six months of the year is predominantly focused on the graduate market," he said. "Now, the senior market is starting to come in. For all

the work done on high school programs up to now, everyone should be looking at reaping the benefits and solidifying the senior market."

With the end of the school year approaching fast, the softbook program for eligible juniors is a program to get started, Sergeant Lesko said.

"It's an excellent tool to bolster numbers going into the summer," he said. "It's not so much to concentrate on making goal, but it's good to use for overproduction toward that gold or silver badge."

It's also time to focus on places other than high schools, according to Sergeant Lesko.

"Job centers and junior colleges are good places to start looking for applicants," he said. "Statistics say first semester attrition in junior colleges is 40 to 60 percent, so they are great places to recruit. Get out and about — find out where the kids hang out. Don't be afraid to shove business cards into people's hands and ask for an appointment."

Earning silver and gold badges all boils down to effort, according to Sergeant Lesko.

“If you want a silver or gold badge, it’s all about heart,” he said. “Gold and silver badges do not usually come on a whim — they come from goals set early in the year. The people that earn those badges know what they want from the start. After six months, is it achievable? Of course it is — there’s a whole half a year left. Some people have done some dramatic things in the first six months, and everybody else can surely do that for the second half of the year.”

It’s always a great idea to seek mentorship, he added. “Look to someone who has been there before. Talk to flight chiefs, senior recruiters and superintendents. They can give strong mentorship on what you need, where you need to go and point you at the right target market.”

Sergeant Lesko stressed that reaching for the top shouldn’t require turmoil in your life.

“This can be a fun atmosphere — don’t take the fun out of it,” he said. “Don’t pressure yourself too much — look at it with perspective. Formulate and make a plan for yourself. Remember, it doesn’t all have to be done at once — break it down to bite-sized pieces.”

Rookie recruiters also have a shot at silver and gold badges, but their system is slightly different and they should concentrate on their basics, Sergeant Lesko said.

“Rookie recruiters compete out of cycle for silver badge, so they need to look at their first year of production,” he said. “Their priorities need to be on learning the basics, excelling on training and succeeding on certification. New recruiters should pay attention to all the basic skills they need to succeed. Their numbers will come if they are using all their tools.”

Making silver and gold is all about planning, and the earlier you start the plan, the better the chance of success, Sergeant Lesko said.

“Silver is only a few bodies more, but it’s hard to do with only a month left,” he said. “The perfect time to work on that is now — you never know what you are capable of until you push yourself. You can make excuses or make your mind up and achieve it.”

Hitting the mother lode

Seven tips for putting major metal on pocket

Full press getting into schools. It’s getting near the end of the school year, so it’s a good time to touch base with your graduates as well as next year’s seniors.

Use COIs. Center of influence events are underutilized, mostly because people don’t understand how they work.

Think perpetuation. Look at your DEPpers and see who can give you new leads.

Hit the phones. Recontact your older priority one leads — now is the time when they panic if they don’t have any plans.

Use base tours. Load up some prospective applicants in a van for career tours at a base.

Think marketing. Post your zone more, visit your radio and television stations and use your RAPpers.

Eliminate cancellations. Work hard on DEP management and look for the signs of cancellation — one can set you back twice as much.



Don't
set yourself up
to be

Politically Incorrect

Participation in some partisan events may be illegal

By Capt. Christa D'Andrea
Air Force Recruiting Service

The campaign trail is hot and with only seven months to go until Decision 2004, it's only a matter of time until political rallies and fund-raisers pop up within your recruiting zone. The Air Force Recruiting Service Staff Judge Advocate reminds everyone that participation in these events, while in uniform, is a violation of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

"Recruiters need to understand the long-standing policy that Department of Defense personnel who act in their official capacity will not engage in activities that associate the DoD with any partisan political campaign or election, candidate, cause or issue," said Maj. William Boyce, AFRS/JA.

Any recruiter who attends a political event in uniform will

become subject to punishment under Article 92 of the UCMJ, *Failure to Obey Order or Regulation*.

Major Boyce says a military member who attends a political event in their official capacity sends a very confusing message to the general public.

"We need to be sensitive to the unique position each of us holds and recognize that the general public expects its professional military establishment to remain politically neutral," Major Boyce said. "A military member who attends a partisan political event in uniform significantly blurs the line of one's neutrality toward the political process."

Air Force Instruction 51-902, *Political Activities by Members of the U.S. Air Force*, Paragraph 3, governs the activities that are prohibited from participation by servicemembers while they are in

uniform. They include but are not limited to:

— "Participation in partisan political management, campaigns, or conventions, or making public speeches in the course of such activity.

— "Serve in any official capacity or be listed as a sponsor of a partisan political club.

— "Participate in any radio, television, or other program or group discussion as an advocate of a partisan political party or candidate.

— "March or ride in a partisan political parade.

— "Attend, as an official representative of the armed forces, partisan political events, even without actively participating."

Major Boyce iterates that whether in or out of uniform, partisan political activities and events are not the places to conduct recruiting efforts.

“The general rule is that Air Force members may attend political meetings or rallies as ‘spectators’ only,” he added.

However, there are a number of authorized political events in which military members may participate.

For instance, Airmen may make monetary contributions to political organizations, join a political club and attend meetings (not in uniform); sign a petition for specific legislative action or a petition to place a candidate’s name on an official election ballot (so long as the signing does not obligate the member to engage in partisan

political activity); write a letter to the editor of a newspaper expressing personal views concerning public issues; and display a political sticker on a private auto or wear a political button when not in uniform and not on duty.

Although civilian employees do not have to adhere to as many restrictions as their active duty counterparts, Major Boyce recommends they be consciously aware of the perception their involvement may have upon the general public. As with military members, civilian employees cannot use their official titles or authority while participating in

partisan political activities.

“In short, as a representative of the armed forces, recruiters or any military member, may not attend partisan political activities in their official capacity,” Major Boyce added. “Although there are certain well established rules that need to be followed during an election season, the important thing to note, however, is that Airmen and civilian employees alike are encouraged to vote in all elections.”

For more information about participation in political activities, consult AFI 51-902, or contact a JAG office near you.

Defense Department axing Internet voting plans

By **Jim Garamone**
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Defense Department officials are axing an Internet voting program because of concerns about security, a Pentagon spokeswoman said Feb. 6.

The Federal Voting Assistance Program, which aids Americans serving overseas in the voting process, will not use the SERVE system in November. The acronym stands for Secure Electronic Registration and Voting Experiment.

“The department has decided not to use the SERVE program in the November elections because of our inability to ensure the legitimacy of the votes,” the spokeswoman said. Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz signed the memo on SERVE Jan. 30.

The cancellation follows a report by four of the 10 computer security experts asked to test the system. Those four decided the system did not ensure the legitimacy of votes. The report

they issued said there were a number of ways that computer hackers could crack into the system.

Secretary Wolfowitz said he will reconsider his decision only if researchers can prove integrity can be maintained, the spokeswoman said.

The decision does not end Internet voting research, the Pentagon spokeswoman said. Research will continue.

Under the project, eligible voters would have been able to register and vote electronically via any Windows-based personal computer with Internet access from anywhere in world. Seven states had signed up for the project: Arkansas, Florida, Hawaii, North Carolina, South Carolina, Utah and Washington

Overseas voters can still vote by regular paper ballots, or via fax.

The Federal Voting Assistance Program has more information on its Web site, <http://www.fvap.gov>, and servicemembers also can contact their unit voting assistance officers.

Double the benefits

Arkansas twin sisters earn commission into pharmacist program

By Tech. Sgt.
Cheri Dragos-Pritchard
348th Recruiting Squadron

A rare event has occurred not only in the Air Force, but also for a Cabot, Ark., family. The Air Force's biomedical science corps pharmacist program is one of the toughest programs to get accepted into, but one set of parents recently received news that both of their children made the cut. They join only four more applicants out of a total of 26 people who were accepted for consideration Air Force-wide.

Fraternal twins Lisset and Elizabeth Justice were sworn in as second lieutenants by Col. Curtis Ross, 314th Airlift Wing vice commander, during a ceremony Mar. 12 at the Top of the Rock Consolidated Club Ballroom at Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark. The Arkansas State University honor graduates are entering the Air Force pharmacist program and will continue their education while in Reserve status. The sisters will enter active duty as captains upon completion of their degrees.

"Every father knows his children will eventually leave

home," said Jim Justice, the twins' father. "However, in my case I know the girls are going to work for an organization that will take care of them in my absence. I'm apprehensive, but I'm proud and confident they will be taken care of and do their best for the Air Force at the same time. It's a win-win situation."

The young women were born in Panama, while their father was stationed there as an active-duty soldier in the Army. However, they have spent the past 20 years living in the Cabot area.

The sisters each earned a scholarship and are attending the University of Arkansas Medical Sciences College of Pharmacy at Little Rock, Ark., where they maintain a 3.49 or higher grade point average.

"I know my girls are worthy of this program," said Mr. Justice. "They've worked hard to accom-

plish this and deserve to be accepted. At the same time, it's an honor that we, as a family, take seriously."

Elizabeth and Lisset expressed a strong interest in chemistry and science, and explained that this is what led them to decide to pursue pharmacology as their major in college.

"I find this field of study (pharmacology) so interesting," said Lisset. "It's amazing how one drug can affect or cause the body to react. I'm so excited to have the opportunity to take part in this program in the Air Force and have a more 'hands-on' approach to learning. I can't wait to get started."

Both candidates were very

happy to know they would have the opportunity to work in a variety of fields within the pharmacy area once they enter active duty and are assigned to their first duty station.

"Once I found out that we could actually work in more than just one area, I was sold on the program," said Elizabeth. "I want to actually work with the doctors and play a part in the decisions for prescribing the medications versus just

"I'm proud and confident they will be taken care of and do their best for the Air Force at the same time. It's a win-win situation."

Jim Justice



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Cheri Dragos-Pritchard

Col. Curtis Ross, 314th Airlift Wing vice commander, commissions (left to right) Elizabeth and Lisset Justice during a ceremony March 12 at Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark. The twins were sworn in as second lieutenants while they finish their degrees in pharmacy. Once they've completed their educations they will enter active duty as captains in the pharmacy career field.

counting out pills and handing them to the person. I also like the idea of having the opportunity to teach various classes, like the smoking cessation class. There are so many great aspects about this program. I couldn't pass up the opportunity to be a part of it."

Once again, the sisters agreed that the "team" aspect and structure of the Air Force played a major part in their decision to apply.

"I like the fact that the Air Force offers structure and organization," said Elizabeth. "However, I'm equally impressed that it offers variety, too. I want to be a well-versed person, professionally and personally, and I think the Air Force will afford me those opportunities. I want to learn as much as possible about being a pharmacist and I want to be a

good officer as well."

"We were able to take a tour of the pharmacy on the base, and I was so impressed," said Lisset. "The people were extremely nice, and they were very professional, but it looked like they were having fun doing their jobs, too. I want that. I like the thought of structure, discipline and organization, but I also want to enjoy what I do, and know I'm making a difference."

Lisset and Elizabeth are accomplishing their internships in two separate pharmacies in the Little Rock area and agree there will be benefits to working as pharmacists in the Air Force that they haven't found in their civilian jobs.

Both women said they love the fact that insurance and having enough money is not a determin-

ing factor in whether a patient receives a prescribed dosage of medication. "We don't like it when people tell us they don't have enough money to pay for the entire prescription or their insurance doesn't cover prescriptions. That breaks our hearts and we won't have to worry about that in the Air Force," they said.

"The Air Force truly is a higher calling where young people can serve both their fellow man and their country at the same time," said Lt. Col. Darryl Treat, 348th Recruiting Squadron commander. "The men and women in uniform who defend our nation deserve the finest in medical care, so you can understand how proud we are of these two future lieutenants who have decided to make a difference."

337th recruiter flies after gold badge

Senior Airman Clifton Fulkerson, a 337th Recruiting Squadron rookie recruiter, received an incentive flight from the 77th Fighter Squadron at Shaw Air Force Base, S.C., for receiving the annual Master Recruiter Badge.

Airman Fulkerson beat out almost 70 other recruiters to earn the gold badge. The Charlotte-based recruiter ended the year

with a 183.3 percent goal rate and one cancellation.

Air Force launches media use survey

The Air Force is selecting 10,000 random Airmen and Air Force civilian employees to receive the 2004 Internal Product and Media Use Survey. This is an official Air Force survey and can be identified by control number 04-023. The survey should only take 15 minutes.

AFRS member wins AETC comm award

Tech. Sgt. Shane M. Ware was recently named the 2003 Air Education and Training Command Communications and Information Professional of the Year (NCO category).

He will now represent AETC in the Air Force Communications and Information Awards competition.

Families of high school seniors may get to stay in place

Some Air Force families with a child entering the senior year of high school may get to stay additional time at their current duty stations thanks to a new policy announced this month.

The High School Seniors Assignment Deferment Program allows senior master sergeants and below, and officers through the rank of lieutenant colonel, to apply for a one-year assignment deferment. Back-to-back deferments may be possible and military-married-to-military spouses may also apply.

Even with the changes, officials said the mission comes first and will be the overriding factor in granting deferments.

“This policy does not mean that every Airman with a high school senior will remain in place,” Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Gerald R. Murray said. “Deferments will be approved where possible. As in all situations, however, the needs of the Air Force will come first.”

“Requests will be considered

Some personnel services become Web-based only

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas

(AFPN) — Airmen will no longer have to stand in line to accomplish a personnel records review or several other common tasks.

To make it easier for personnel customers, six different personnel services are now available only on the Web. Military personnel flight workers will point customers toward the Internet if they want to do any of the following:

- Update the Record of Emergency Data.
- Apply for a change to an assignment or change a report-not-later-than date.
- Apply for certain curtailments of date eligible for return from overseas.
- Accomplish a humanitarian or exceptional family member

program application.

— Request a ‘proof of service’ letter, often needed for home loans.

— Make simple updates to common information like home address, home telephone number, religious preference, race, ethnic group, foreign language self-assessment, duty and personal e-mail addresses.

For people using these services, questions can be answered 24 hours a day online or by a toll-free call to the Air Force Contact Center.

Airmen can access the vMPF through the Air Force Portal, at www.my.af.mil, by clicking on the “careers” tab. For more information, call the Air Force Contact Center at (800) 616-3775. (Courtesy of AFPC News Service)

Airman with a capital “A”

Air Force members now identified with proper noun

By General John P. Jumper
Air Force chief of staff

WASHINGTON (AFPN) —
I am an Airman.

Note that is with a capital “A.” It is just one letter at the beginning of the word, but it signifies a great deal. The reason it is capitalized is simple: Airmen in the U.S. Air Force are the heart and soul of our unique fighting force, and should be identified by a proper noun.

As young children, when we began to read, we learned a capital letter at the front of a word signified something special or important, like our own name, our hometown and our country. This was reinforced throughout our education and professional life.

When we see a capital letter, our minds automatically emphasize that word, and we

bestow an increased importance on that person, place or thing. It is time to formally add our profession to that list of important and special nouns.

You may have seen or heard something about my guidance to capitalize the word “Airman.” It is appropriate to do so, in recognition of our rich history, and to emphasize our unparalleled role in the defense of America.

Our Air Force is the finest air and space force in the world because of the generations of professional Airmen who have devoted their lives to dominating the skies.

Capitalizing the word “Airman” recognizes their historic achievements and signifies our unique contributions to fighting and winning America’s wars. It shows we have earned the respect a proper name imparts.

For 38 years of my life, I have been proud to wear the uniform



of the U.S. Air Force. And, whether you have worn it as long as I have or have just recently joined our team, I know we all feel the same sense of pride. Regardless of the uniform we wear, the specialty we hold, the badge over our pocket, and whether we are active duty, Guard, Reserve, or civilian, first and foremost, we are Airmen.

We are one Air Force and we are Airmen.

on a case-by-case basis,” said Col. Kathleen Grabowski, chief of assignment programs and procedures at the Air Force Personnel Center. “The goal is to approve as many requests as mission needs allow without being unfair, but the reality is that some requests won’t be possible due to Air Force needs.”

To be eligible, the rising

senior in high school must be a dependent of and living with the Airman requesting the deferment, and must be enrolled in the dependent enrollment system called DEERS, she said.

Officers will need to apply before being put on assignment while enlisted people will not apply until after being matched to an assignment, said Master Sgt. Letty

Inabinet, AFPC superintendent of assignment procedures. Applications are available at military personnel flights and commander support staffs.

The Air Force Contact Center offers information about this program by calling toll free (800) 616-3775 or online at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil>.

February Promotions

Lieutenant Colonel

Timothy M. Torres
Michael J. Dwyer

HQAFRS
368 RCS

Donovan J. Thompson
Angela Marie Watkins

344 RCS
369 RCS

Technical Sergeant

Senior Master Sergeant

Ernest D. Chapman
Ronald A. Draper
Edward G. Coull

367 RCG
331 RCS
361 RCS

John K. Asselin
Terry P. Lee Jr.
Dwain R. Soto
Jeffrey M. Glick
Randy R. Knightner Sr.
Chad A. Blue

HQAFRS
314 RCS
318 RCS
338 RCS
341 RCS
347 RCS

Master Sergeant

Antonio J. McClary
Bryan K. Murphy
Mark N. Yawn
Michael D. Wilsey

HQAFRS
311 RCS
333 RCS
337 RCS

Staff Sergeant

Nathan D. Pompey
Pelencio S. Witherspoon
Jeremy V. Gomez

311 RCS
317 RCS
362 RCS

AFRS members get STEPs

Five Air Force Recruiting Service members were recently promoted under the Stripes for Exceptional Performers program.



Master Sgt. Jake W. Davis
Flight chief
332 RCS



Master Sgt. James A. Mayotte
Officer accessions program manager
HQAFRS



Tech. Sgt. Alicia L. Davis
Logistics NCO
362 RCS



Tech. Sgt. Derek A. Rivera
Standardization and training NCO
318 RCS



Tech. Sgt. Jason M. Tag
Officer accessions recruiter
344 RCS

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Randolph AFB TX 78150-4527

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Recruiting Flashback

1965

Toys for orphanage -- Master Sgt. Ted Lopez helps Bruce Beckstead, Phoenix Jaycees, load the first contribution of usable toys being donated to the orphanage in Nogales, Mexico, for Christmas. The local Jaycees were collecting the toys with local area recruiters delivering them.

